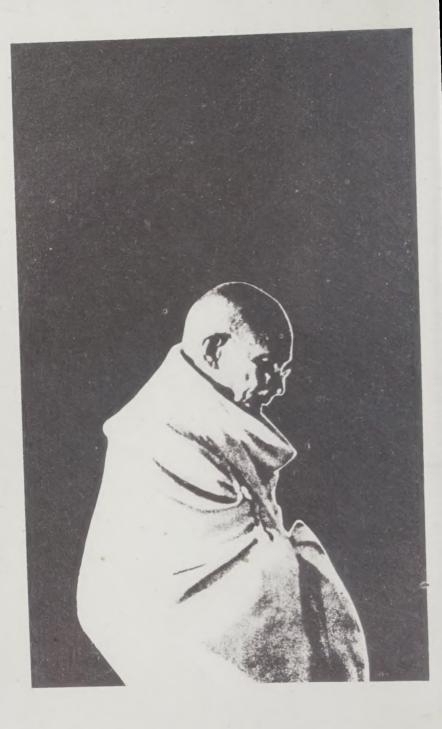
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Quotes of Gandhi



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Foreword

"He was the kingliest of kings and more,
He builded kingdoms and pulled
kingdoms down.
Nor ever cared himself to wear a crown,
His shining nakedness was all he wore."

Evolution which travels smoothly along timelessness, at certain urgent points of its process, turns into a revolution which has the arcane quality of moulding, for its own nourishment and resuscitation, certain unique, singular, irreproducable phenomena in human forms that pass into history and the history of the Divine.

Such rare breathtaking beings are not born, but just happen. To name but a few

on the undying list of God, the deathless ones on earth, whose influence passes into the lives of generations in which they resurrect keeping evolution alive: Ramakrishna Paramahansa , Vivekananda , Anandamai , Sri Aurobindo, Ramana Maharshi and Gandhi, are the ripest contribution of Heaven to earth. Without our being conscious of the fact, they help millions, not only of our country, but of the world, to continue to breathe, dream, to ache for a shining world yet in the making. They were all apostles of peace, not merely of the peace as contrasted by war, but the peace of Christ which passeth all understanding.

With Gandhi, non-violence was never, even for a fraction of a second, the weapon of the weak, but always the weapon of the

strong. He was an ancestor come back, full of love and faith and naked simplicity of kindly thought, who would not have dreamt, even in a dream, of hurting a fly. The word revenge was never in Gandhi's dictionary.

Here is a book, which I strongly believe, should be found in every home, since it contains a world of wisdom.

Specially today, when the younger generation seems to be unconsiously imbibing superficial thought. I can only hope that a study of these quotations will help to bridge and cancel wholly, not just this generation gap, but also this veneration gap.

Harendranath Chattopadhyaya



An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

Literary education is of no value, if it is not able to build up a sound character.

Woman is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacities. She has the right to participate in the minutest details in the activities of man, and she has an equal right of freedom and liberty with him.

Hatred ever kills,

Love never dies

such is the vast difference
between the two.

What is obtained by love
is retained for all time.

What is obtained by hatred
proves a burden
in reality,
for it increases hatred.

Fear of death
makes us devoid
both of valour and religion.
For want of valour
is want of religious faith.

There are times when you have to obey a call which is the highest of all, i.e. the voice of conscience even though such obedience may cost many a bitter tear, and even more, separation from friends, from family, from the state to which you may belong. from all that you have held as dear as life itself. For this obedience is the law of our being.

Insistence on truth can come into play when one party practises untruth or injustice. Only then can love be tested. True friendship is put to the test only when one party disregards the obligation of friendship.

Forme, the present is merged in eternity,

I may not sacrifice the latter for the present.

The test of friendship is assistance in adversity, and that too, unconditional assistance. Co-operation which needs consideration is a commercial contract and not friendship. Conditional co-operation is like adulterated cement which does not bind

It may be long
before the law of love
will be recognised
in international affairs.
The machineries of government
stand between
and hide the hearts
of one people
from those of another.

A vow
is a purely religious act
which cannot be taken
in a fit of passion.
It can be taken only
with a mind purified
and composed
and with God as witness.

Nations are born out of travail and suffering.

Religion
is a matter of the heart.
No physical inconvenience
can warrant abandonment
of one's own religion.

Non-cooperation is an attempt to awaken the masses, to a sense of their dignity and power. This can only be done by enabling them to realize that they need not fear brute force, if they would but know the soul within

Public opinion alone can keep a society pure and healthy.

Whenever I see an erring man. Isay to myself Thave also erred: when I see a lustful man I say to myself. so was I once; and in this way I feel kinship with everyone in the world and feel that I cannot be happy without the humblest of us being happy.

To forgive is not to forget.

The merit lies in loving in spite of the vivid knowledge that the one that must be loved is not a friend.

There is no merit in loving an enemy when you forget him for a friend.

Strength does not come from physical capacity.

It comes from an indomitable will.

The moment there is suspicion about a person's motives, everything he does becomes tainted.

Are creeds such simple things
like the clothes
which a man can change
at will and put on at will?
Creeds are such for which
people live for ages and ages.

I have but shadowed forth my intense longing to lose myself in the Eternal and become merely a lump of clay in the Potter's divine hands so that my service may become more certain because uninterrupted by the baser self in me.

An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does truth become error because nobody will see it.

A man who broods on evil is as bad as a man who does evil, if he is no worse.

Suffering cheerfully endured, ceases to be suffering and is transmuted into an ineffuble joy.

As soon as we lose the moral basis,
we cease to be religious.
There is no such thing as religion
over-riding morality.

Man, for instance,
cannot be untruthful,
cruel or incontinent
and claim
to have God on his side.

Even as wisdom of ten comes
from the mouths of babes,
so does it often come
from the mouths of old people.
The golden rule is
to test everything
in the light of reason
and experience,
no matter from where it comes.

Non-cooperation is directed not against men but against measures. It is not directed against the Governors, but against the system they administer. The roots of non-cooperation lie not in hatred but in justice, if not in love.

I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any. Irefuse to live in other people's houses as an interloper, a beggar ora slave.

Measures must always
in a progressive society
be held superior to men,
who are after all
imperfect instruments,
working for their fulfilment.

I will far rather see
the race of man extinct
than that we should become
less than beasts
by making
the noblest of God's creation,
woman,
the object of our lust.

The spirit of non-violence necessarily leads to humility.

Non-violence means reliance on God, the rock of ages.

If we would seek his aid, we must approach Him with a humble and contrite heart.

Abstract truth has no value unless it incarnates in human beings who represent it. by proving their readiness to die for it.

I am a Puritan myself, but I am catholic towards others.

There is a higher court
than courts of justice
and that is
the court of conscience.
It supercedes
all other courts.

Non-cooperation is
beyond the reach of the bayonet.

It has found an abiding place
in the Indian heart.

Workers like me will go
when the hour has struck,
but non-cooperation will remain.

Intolerance is itself
a form of violence
and an obstacle to the growth
of a true democratic spirit.

This campaign of non-cooperation has no reference to diplomacy, secret or open.

The only diplomacy it admits of is the statement and pursuance of truth at any cost.

God is,

even though
the whole world
deny him.

Truth stands,
even if there be
no public support.

It is self-sustained.

Never has man reached his destination by persistence in deviation from the straight path.

I claim that human mind
or human society
is not divided
into watertight compartments
called social,
political and religious.
All act and react
upon one another.

The only way love punishes is by suffering.

The only virtue I want to claim is truth and non-violence. I lay no claim to superhuman powers. I want none. I wear the same corruptible flesh that the weakest of my fellow beings wears, and am therefore as liable to err as any. Myservices have many limitations, but God has upto now blessed them in spite of the imperfections.

The human voice can never reach the distance that is covered by the still small voice of conscience.

If we want to cultivate
a true spirit of democracy
we cannot afford
to be intolerant.
Intolerance betrays
want of faith in one's cause.

When I admire
the wonders of a sunset
or the beauty of the moon,
my soul expands
in the worship of the creator.

Violent means
will give violent freedom.
That would be a menace
to the world
and to India herself.

Religion is more than life.

Remember that his own religion is the truest to every man even if it stands low in the scales of philosophical comparison.

In nature
there is fundamental unity
running through all
the diversity we see about us.
Religions are given to mankind
so as to accelerate
the process of realisation
of fundamental unity.

I believe in absolute oneness of God and therefore also of humanity.

However
much I may sympathise with
and admire worthy motives,
I am an uncompromising
opponent
of violent methods
even to serve
the noblest of causes.

Birth and death are not two different states, but they are different aspects of the same state. There is as little reason to deplore the one as there is to be pleased over the other.

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For me every ruler is alien that defies public opinion.

Experience convinces me
that permanent good
can never be the outcome
of untruth & violence.

Even if my belief is
a fond delusion,
it will be admitted that
it is a fascinating delusion.

I do not want to
foresee the future.
I am concerned
with taking care
of the present.

God has given me no control
over the moment following.

Indeed one's faith
in one's plans and methods
is truly tested
when the horizon before one
is the blackest.

It is my own firm belief that the strength of the soul grows in proportion as you subdue the flesh.

My trust is solely in God.

Find I trust men
only because I trust God.

If I had no God to rely upon,
I should be like Timon,
a hater of my species.

One's own religion is after all a matter between oneself and one's Maker and no one else's.

My religion is based on truth and non-violence.

Truth is my God.

Non-violence is the means of realising Him.

It is any day better to stand erect
with a broken
and bandaged head
than to crawl on one's belly,
in order to be able
to save one's head.

Better far than cowardice is killing and being killed in battle.

Imitation is the sincerest flattery.

Let no one charge me with ever having abused or encouraged weakness or surrendered on matters of principle. But I have said, as I say again, that every trifle must not be dignified into a principle.

Violent men
have not been known
in history to die to a man.
They die up to a point.

Justice that love gives
is a surrender,
justice that law gives
is a punishment.

Iam but a poorstruggling soul yearning to be wholly good, wholly truthful and wholly non-violent in thought, word and deed; but ever failing to reach the ideal which I know to be true. It is a painful climb, but the pain of it is a positive pleasure to me. Each step upwards makes me feel stronger and fit for the next.

Moral authority
is never retained
by any attempt to hold on to it.
It comes without seeking
and is retained without effort.

Self-respect knows no considerations.

Power is of two kinds.

One is obtained by
the fear of punishment
and the other by acts of love.

Power based on love is
a thousand times more effective
and permanent than the one
derived from fear of punishment.

A religion
that takes no account
of practical affairs
and does not help to solve them
is no religion.

There is no principle worth the name if it is not wholly good.

No sacrifice is worth the name unless it is a joy. Sacrifice and a long face go ill together. Sacrifice is making sacred'. He must be a poor specimen of humanity who is in need of sympathy for his sacrifice.

That service is the noblest which is rendered for its own sake.

Every formula of every religion has in this age of reason, to submit to the acid test of reason and universal assent.

God tries his votaries
through and through
but never beyond endurance.
He gives them strength enough
to go through the ordeal
he prescribes for them.

Love never claims,
it ever gives.

Love ever suffers,
never resents,
never revenges itself.

I claim to be a simple individual
liable to err
like any other fellow mortal.
I own, however, that
I have humility enough to confess
my errors and to retrace my steps.

Truth is by nature self-evident,
as soon as you remove
the cobwebs of ignorance
that surround it,
it shines clear.

Adaptability is not imitation.

It means power of resistance
and assimilation.

Man has reason, discrimination and free-will such as it is. The brute has no such thing. It is not a free agent, and knows no distinction between virtue and vice, good and evil. Man, being a free agent, knows these distinctions, and when he follows his higher nature,

shows himself far superior
to the brute,
but when he follows
his baser nature
can show himself lower
than the brute.

Anger is the enemy of Ahimsa *
and pride is a monster
that swallows it up.

1926

* Non-violence

A principle is
the expression of perfection,
and as imperfect beings like us
cannot practise perfection,
we devise every moment limits
of its compromise in practice.

It is easy enough to say, I do not believe in God! For God permits all things to be said of Him with impurity. He looks at our acts. Find any breach of His Law carries with it. not its vindictive. but its purifying, compelling punishment.

He who trifles with truth cuts at the root of Ahimsa.

He who is angry is guilty of Himsa.

Human society
is a ceaseless growth,
an unfoldment
in terms of spirituality.

If patience is worth anything, it must endure to the end of time.

Ind a living faith will last in the midst of the blackest storm.

Though we may know 'Him by a thousand names,

'He is one

and the same to us all.

I have found by experience that man makes his plans to be often upset by God, but, at the same time, where the ultimate goal is the search of truth, no matter how a man's plans are frustrated the issue is never injurious and often better than anticipated.

A 'no' uttered
from deepest conviction
is better and greater
than a 'yes'
merely uttered to please,
or what is worse,
to avoid trouble.

Friendship that insists
upon agreement
on all matters
is not worth the name.
Friendship to be real
must ever sustain
the weight of honest differences,
however sharp they be.

A clean confession, combined with a promise never to commit the sin again, when offered before one who has the right to receive it, is the purest type of repentance.

Purity of personal life
is the one indispensable condition
for building up
a sound education.

Perfection is the exclusive attribute of God, and it is indescribable. untranslatable. I do believe that it is possible for human beings to become perfect, even as God is perfect. It is necessary for all of us to aspire after that perfection but when that blessed state is attained, it becomes indescribable, indefinable.

What is true of the individual will be to-morrow true of the whole nation if individuals will but refuse to lose heart and hope.

Service which is rendered
without joy
helps neither the servant
nor the served.
But all other pleasures
and possessions
pale into nothingness
before service which is rendered
in a spirit of joy.

It has always been a mystery to me how men can feel themselves honoured by the humiliation of their fellow beings.

The spirit of democracy is not a mechanical thing to be adjusted by abolition of forms.

It requires change of heart.

It is quite proper to resist and attack a system, but to resist and attack its author is tantamount to resisting and attacking oneself, for we are all tarred with the same brush, and are children of one and the same Creator, and assuch the divine powers within us are infinite. To slight a single human being, is to slight those divine powers and thus to harm not only that Being, but with Him, the whole world.

Let us all be brave enough to die the death of a martyr, but let no one lust for martyrdom.

A true soldier does not arque, as he marches, how success is going to be ultimately achieved. But he is confident that if he only plays his humble part well, somehow or other the battle will be won. It is in that spirit that every one of us should act. It is not given to us to know the future. But it is given to everyone of us to know how to do our own part well.

If co-operation is a duty,

I hold that non co-operation also
under certain conditions
is equally a duty.

If all the animal creation of God, man is the only animal who has been created in order that he may know his Maker. Man's aim in life is not therefore to add from day to day to his material prospects and to his material possessions, but his predominant calling is, from day to day to come nearer to his own Maker.

Spiritual relationship
is far more precious than physical
Physical relationship divorced
from spiritual
is body without soul.

Man and his deed are two distinct things. Whereas a good deed should call forth approbation and a wicked deed dis-approbation, the doer of the deed, whether good or wicked always deserves respect or pity as the case may be. Hate the sin and not the sinner is a precept which though easy enough to understand is rarely practised, and that is why the poison of hatred spreads in the world.

All the religions of the world,
while they may differ
in other respects,
unitedly proclaim that
nothing lives in this world
but Truth.

Morality is the basis of things and truth is the substance of all morality.

Mankind is notoriously too dense to read the signs that God sends from time to time. We require drums to be beaten into our ears, before we should wake from our trance and hear the warning and see that to lose oneself in all. is the only way to find oneself.

I do not want any patronage,
as I do not give any.

I am a lover of my own liberty,
and so I would do nothing
to restrict yours.

I simply want to please
my own conscience,
which is God.

Real suffering,
bravely borne,
melts even a heart of stone.
Such is the potency of suffering.
And there lies the key
to Satyagraha.

But for my faith in God, Ishould have been a raving maniac.

There is an orderliness in the universe. there is an unalterable law governing everything and every being that exists or lives. It is no blind law: for no blind law can govern the conduct of living beings.

The first condition
of humaneness
is a little humility
and a little diffidence
about the correctness
of one's conduct
and a little receptiveness.

Where love is, there God is also.

We are merely the instruments
of the Almighty's will
and therefore ignorant
of what helps us forward
and what acts
as an impediment'.

We must thus rest satisfied
with the knowledge
only of the means
and if these are pure,
we can fearlessly leave the end
to take care of itself.

There will have to be rigid and iron discipline before we achieve anything great and enduring, and that discipline will not come by mere academic argument and appeal to reason and logic. Discipline is learnt in the school of adversity

Non-violence is not a quality
to be evolved
or expressed to order.

It is an inward growth
depending for sustenance
upon intense individual effort.

Constant development
is the law of life,
and a man who always tries
to maintain his dogmas
in order to appear
consistent drives himself
into a false position.

I believe that cunning is not only morally wrong but also politically inexpedient, and have therefore always discountenanced its use even from the practical standpoint.

When anything assumes the strength of a creed, it becomes self-sustained and derives the needed support from within.

I do dimly perceive that whilst everything around me is ever-changing, ever-dying, there is underlying all that change a living Power that is changeless, that holds all together, that creates, dissolves and recreates. That informing power or spirit is God. And since nothing else I see merely through the senses can or will persist, He alone is.

Non-violence and cowardice are contradictory terms. Non-violence is the greatest virtue, cowardice the greatest vice. Non-violence springs from love, cowardice from hate. Non-violence always suffers. cowardice would always inflict suffering. Perfect non-violence

is the highest bravery.

Non-violent conduct is never demoralising, cowardice always is.

Each one has to find his peace from within.

And peace to be real must be unaffected by outside circumstances.

It is man's social nature which distinguishes him from the brute creation. If it is his privilege to be independent, it is equally his duty to be inter-dependent. Only an arrogant man will claim to be independent of everybody else and be self-contained.

Healthy discontent is the prelude to progress.

Manliness consists not in bluff,
bravado or lordliness.
It consists in daring
to do the right
and facing consequences
whether it is in matters social,
political or other.
It consists in deeds,
not in words.

Commonsense is the realised sense of proportion.

Golden fetters
are no less galling
to a self-respecting man
than iron ones;
the sting lies in the fetters,
not in the metal.

It would conduce to national progress and save a great deal of time and trouble if we cultivated the habit of never supporting the resolutions either by speaking or voting for them if we had not either the intention or the ability to carry them out.

Breach of promise is a base surrender of truth.

Intellect takes us along in the battle of life to a certain limit. but at the crucial moment it fails us. Faith transcends reason It is when the horizon is the darkest and human reason is beaten down to the ground that faith shines brightest and comes to our rescue.

I reject
any religious doctrine
that does not
appeal to reason
and is in conflict
with morality.

Gentleness, self-sacrifice and generosity are the exclusive possession of no one race or religion.

Each one prays to God according to his own light.

The world is touched by sacrifice.

It does not then discriminate about the merits of a cause.

Not so God—

He is all seeing.

He insists

on the purity of the cause and on adequate sacrifice thereof.

Breach of promise is no less an act of insolvency than a refusal to pay one's debt.

Prayer is not asking.
It is a longing of the soul.

It is daily admission
of one's weakness.
It is better in prayer
to have a heart without words
than words without a heart.

The law of sacrifice is uniform throughout the world.

To be effective it demands the sacrifice of the bravest and the most spotless.

Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow-men.

We may have our private opinions but why should they be a bar to the meeting of hearts?

There should be truth
in thought, truth in speech,
and truth in action.
To the man who has realised
this truth in perfection,
nothing else remains to be known
because all knowledge
is necessarily included in it.

Iwould heartily welcome the union of East and West provided it is not based on brute force.

Isaw that nations like individuals could only be made through the agony of the Cross and in no other way. Joy comes not out of infliction of pain on others but out of pain voluntarily borne by oneself.

An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching.

Courage has never been known to be a matter of muscle; it is a matter of the heart. The toughest muscle has been known to tremble before an imaginary fear. It was the heart that set the muscle atrembling.

To me art
in order to be truly great must,
like the beauty of Nature,
be universal in its appeal.
It must be simple
in its presentation
and direct in its expression,
like the language of Nature.

God sometimes does try
to the uttermost
those whom
he wishes to bless.

When restraint and courtesy are added to strength, the latter becomes irresistible.

Suffering
has its well-defined limits.

Suffering can be
both wise and unwise,
and when the limit is reached,
to prolong it
would be not unwise
but the height of folly.

Have I not gazed at the marvellous mystery of the starry vault, hardly ever tiring of the great panorama?

I have worshipped woman as the living embodiment of the spirit of service and sacrifice.

Proved right should be capable of being vindicated by right means as against the rude i.e. sanguinary means. Man may and should shed his own blood for establishing what he considers to be his right. He may not shed the blood of his opponent who disputes his right?

I look only to the good qualities of men.

Not being faultless myself,

Iwon't presume to probe

into the faults of others.

Woman
has a compassionate heart
which melts
at the sight of suffering.

Everyone who wills can hear the inner voice.

It is within everyone.

I have been a willing slave to this most exacting Master for more than half a century. His voice has been increasingly audible as years have rolled by. He has never forsaken me even in my darkest hour. He has saved me often against myself and left me not a vestige of independence. The greater the surrender to Him, the greater has been my joy.

A certain degree of physical harmony and comfort is necessary, but above a certain level it becomes a hindrance instead of a help. Therefore the ideal of creating an unlimited number of wants and satisfying them seems to be a delusion and a snare.

Evil is, good or truth misplaced.

There is no human institution but has its dangers. The greater the institution, the greater the chances of abuse. Democracy is a great institution and therefore it is liable to be greatly abused. The remedy therefore is not avoidance of democracy but reduction of the possibility of abuse to a minimum.

Man can never be
a woman's equal
in the spirit of selfless service
with which Nature
has endowed her.

I believe
in the fundamental truth
of all great religions
of the world.

My life is one indivisible whole, and all my activities run into one another, and they all have their rise in my insatiable love of mankind.

I need no inspiration other than Nature's. She has never failed me yet. She mystifies me, bewilders me. sends me into ecstasies. Besides God's handiwork, does not man's fade into insignificance?

The real ornament of woman is her character, her purity.

To deprive a man
of his natural liberty
and to deny to him
the ordinary amenities of life
is worse than starving the body;
it is starvation of the soul
the dweller in the body.

Humility cannot be an observance by itself. For, it does not lend itself to being deliberately practised. It is, however, an indispensable test of Ahimsa'. For one who has 'Ahimsa' in him it becomes part of his very nature.

God, as Truth, has been for me a treasure beyond price.

May He be so to every one of us.

Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind.

It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.

Destruction is not the law of humans. Man lives freely only by his readiness to die, if need be, at the hands of his brother, never by killing him. Every murder or other injury, no matter for what cause, committed or inflicted on another is a crime against humanity.

The main purpose of life is to live rightly, think rightly, act rightly.

The soul must languish when we give all our thought to the body.

Unwearied ceaseless effort is the price that must be paid for turning faith into a rich infallible experience.

Manliness consists in making circumstances subserve to ourselves. Those who will not heed themselves perish. To understand this principle is not to be impatient, not to reproach fate, not to blame others. He who understands the doctrine of self-help blames himself for failure.

Surely conversion is a matter between man and his Maker who alone knows his creatures' hearts. A conversion without a clean heart is. in my opinion, a denial of God and Religion. Conversion without cleanliness of heart can only be a matter of sorrow, not joy, to a godly person.

I have not the shadow of a doubt that any man or woman can achieve what I have, if he or she would make the same effort and cultivate the same hope and faith. Work without faith is like an attempt to reach the bottom of a bottomless pit.

Ill-digested principles are,
if anything,
worse than ill-digested food,
for the latter harms the body
and there is cure for it,
whereas the former ruins the soul
and there is no cure for it.

The essence of all religions is one.
Only their approaches are different.

Restraint never ruins one's health. What ruins it is not restraint but outward suppression. A really self-restrained person . grows every day from strength to strength and from peace to more peace. The very first step in self-restraint is the restraint of thoughts.

We should meet abuse
by forbearance.

Human nature is so constituted
that if we take
absolutely no notice
of anger or abuse,
the person indulging in it
will soon weary of it and stop.

True religion isnot a narrow dognua. It is not external observance. It is faith in God and living in the presence of God. It means faith in a future life, in truth and Ahimsa. There prevails today a sort of apathy towards these things of the Spirit.

Only he can take great resolves who has indomitable faith in God and has fear of God.

A small body
of determined spirits
fired by an unquenchable faith
in their mission
can alter the course of history.

I may live without air and water,
but not without Him.

You may pluck out myeyes,
but that cannot kill me.

You may chop off my nose
but that will not kill me.

But blast my belief in God,
and I am dead.

Man's nature
is not essentially evil.
Brute nature
has been known to yield
to the influence of love.
If ou must never despair
of human nature.

Freedom is never dear at any price.

It is the breath of life.

What would a man not pay for living?

Iknow, to banish anger
altogether from one's breast
is a difficult task.
It cannot be achieved
through pure personal effort.
It can be done only
by God's grace.

Everyone has faith in God though everyone does not know it. For everyone has faith in himself and that multiplied to the nth degree is God. The sum total of all that lives is God. We may not be God, but we are of God, even as a little drop of water is of the ocean.

There is no one without faults, not even men of God. They are men of God not because they are faultless, but because they know their own faults, they strive against them, they do not hide them, and are ever ready to correct themselves.

Non-violence and cowardice go ill together. I can imagine a fully armed man to be at heart a coward. Possession of arms implies an element of fear, if not cowardice. But true non-violence is an impossibility without the possession of unadulterated fearlessness.

Providence
has its appointed hour
for everything.
We cannot command results,
we can only strive.

The hardest metal yields
to sufficient heat.

Even so must the hardest heart
melt before sufficiency
of the heat of non-violence.

And there is no limit
to the capacity of non-violence
to generate heat.

Rights accrue automatically to him who duly performs his duties. In fact the right to perform one's duties is the only right that is worth living for and dying for. A covers all legitimate rights. Fll the rest is grab under one guise or another and contains in it seed of Himsa.

It is good to see ourselves as others see us. Try as we may. we are never able to know ourselves fully as we are, especially the evil side of us. This we can do only if we are not anyry with our critics but will take in good heart whatever they might have to say.

Far more indispensable than food forthe physical body is spiritual nourishment for the soul. One can do without food for a considerable time, but a man of the spirit cannot exist for a single second without spiritual nourishment.

A dissolute character is more dissolute in thought than in deed.

And the same is true of violence.

Our violence in word and deed is but a feeble echo of the surging violence of thought in us.

Democracy must in essence,
therefore,
mean the art and science
of mobilising the entire physical,
economic and spiritual resources
of all the various sections
of the people in the service
of the common good of all.

A principle is a principle.

and in no case

can it be watered down

because of our incapacity

to live it in practice.

We have to strive

to achieve it,

and the striving should be

conscious, deliberate and hard.

'A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.

Who am 4? I have no strength save what God gives me. I have no authority over my countrymen save the pure moral. If He holds me to be a pure instrument for the spread of non-violence in place of the awful violence now ruling the earth,

He will give me the strength and show me the way.

My greatest weapon is mute prayer.

The cause of peace is therefore, in God's good hands

I want to see India free in my life-time. But God may not consider me fit enough to see the dream of my life fulfilled. Then I shall quarrel. not with Him but with myself.

Ill compromise

is based on give and take.

but there can be no

give and take on fundamentals.

Any compromise

on mere fundamentals

is a surrender.

For it is all give and no take.

Between husband and wife
there should be no secrets
from one another.
I have a very high opinion
of the marriage tie.
I hold that husband and wife
merge in each other.
They are one in two
or two in one.

It is foolish to think that
by fleeing one can trick
the dread god of death.

Let us treat him
as a beneficent angel
rather than a dread god.
We must face and welcome
him whenever he comes.

It is the law of love that rules mankind Had violence, i.e. hate, ruled us we should have become extinct long ago. And yet, the tragedy of it is that the so-called civilized men and nations conduct themselves as if the basis of society was violence.

The badge of the violent is his weapon, spear, sword or rifle.

God is the shield of the non-violent.

It is unwise to be too sure
of one's own wisdom.
It is healthy to be reminded that
the strongest might weaken
and the wisest might err.

It is through truth & non-violence that I can have some glimpse of God.

Truth & non-violence are my God.

They are the obverse and reverse

of the same coin.

Before the throne of the Almighty,
man will be judged
not by his acts
but by his intentions.
For God alone reads our hearts.

Morality which depends upon
the helplessness of
a man or woman
has not much to recommend it.
Morality is rooted
in the purity of our hearts.

An opponent is entitled to
the same regard for his principles
as we would expect others
to have for ours.

Non-violence demands
that we should seek
every opportunity
to win over opponents.

Glory lies in the attempt to reach one's goal and not in reaching it.

Just as a man would not cherish
living in a body
other than his own,
so do nations not like to live
under other nations,
however noble and great
the latter may be.

No religion which is narrow and which cannot satisfy the test of reason, will survive the coming reconstruction of society in which the values will have changed and character, not possession of wealth. title, or birth. will be the test of merit.

How can one be compelled to accept slavery? Isimply refuse to do the master's bidding. He may torture me, break my bones to atoms and even kill me. He will then have my dead body, not my obedience. Ultimately, therefore, it is I who am the victor and not he, for he has failed in getting me to do what he wanted done.

Non-violence requires
a double faith.
faith in God
and also faith in man.

Man falls from the pursuit

of the ideal of plain living

and high thinking

the moment he wants to multiply

his daily wants.

Man's happiness really lies

in contentment.

Power invariably elects to go into the hands of the strong. That strength may be physical or of the heart or, if we do not fight shy of the word, of the spirit. Strength of the heart connotes soul-force. Let it be remembered that

physical force is transitory,
even as the body is transitory.
But the power of the spirit
is permanent even as
the spirit is everlasting.

Truth quenches untruth,
love quenches anger,
self-suffering
quenches violence.
This eternal rule
is a rule not for saints only
but for all.

My work will be finished if Isucceed in carrying conviction to the human family, that every man or woman, however weak in body, is the quardian of his orher self-respect and liberty, and that this defence prevails, though the world be against the individual resister. Confession of errors

is like a broom

which sweeps away the dirt

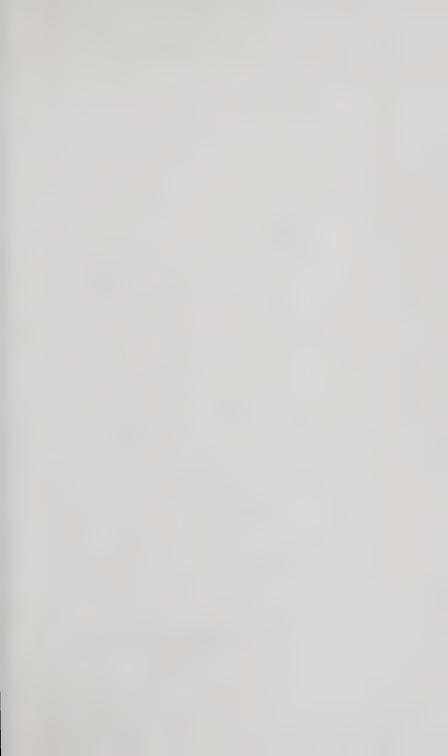
and leaves the surface

brighter and clearer.

I feel stronger for confession.

I worship God as Truth only. I have not yet found Him, but I am seeking after Him Iam prepared to sacrifice the things dearest to me in pursuit of this quest. Even if the sacrifice demanded my very life, I hope I may be prepared to give it.

We do not need to proselytise either by our speech or by our writing. We can only do so really with our lives. Let our lives be open books for all to study.



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First Limited Edition: 1984
Second Printing: 1985
Compiled by Shalu Bhalla
41 Pali Hill, Bandra, Bombay.
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reproduced with kind permission of
Navajivan Trust, Ahmedabad.
Calligraphy, Design and Printing by

FUI India Press, Pondicherry

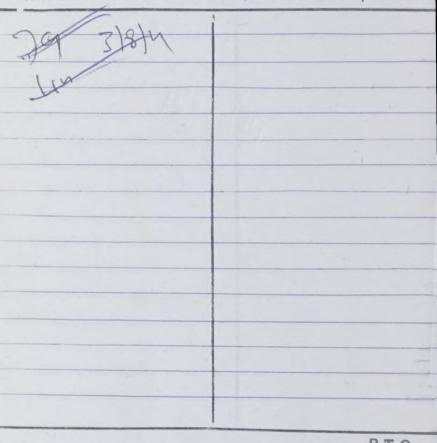




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